07 - 234

No 1403

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Panama and has the honor to refer to recent discussions between representatives of the two Governments regarding the status of United States personnel, as defined in the Embassy's Note No 834, dated July 3, 2001, and the Ministry's Note DM No 0301/2001, dated July 10, 2001, who may be temporarily present in Panama in connection with a visit by twenty officials from the U S. Naval Special Warfare Detachment South, who will be in uniform and who will carry their regulatory weapons, as authorized. The officials will stay in Panama from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 The purpose of the visit is to conduct counter narcotics training (CNT-017) with the Panamanian Public Forces The Panamanian counterparts are Vice Minister Severino Mejia at the Ministry of Government and Justice, Major Ezequiel Carrizo at the Institutional Protection Service, Director Rodrigo Cigarruista at the National Maritime Service, Commander Omar Serrano at the National Air Service and Commissioner Jaime Ruiz at the Panamanian National Police

As a result of these discussions, the Embassy proposes that such personnel shall be accorded a status equivalent to that accorded to the administrative and technical staff of the Embassy of the United States of America under the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961 (Vienna Convention) The understanding contained in the Embassy's Note 835 dated July 3, 2001 and the Ministry's reply in Note No D M 0300/2001 dated July 10, 2001, shall apply

United States personnel shall be permitted to enter and exit Panama with United States identification and with collective movement or individual travel orders, in accordance with an agreement on non-immigrant visas between the United States and Panama, which has been in force since June 1, 1956, as amended, except that the Government of Panama will waive the requirement for tourist cards and related fees Panamanian authorities shall accept as valid driving licenses or permits issued by the appropriate U S authorities to U S personnel for operation of vehicles, and such personnel shall be authorized to wear U S Government attire (uniforms) and to carry authorized equipment when required for their mission while performing official duties

The Embassy of the United States further proposes that the Government of Panama accord duty-free importation and exportation, as well as exemption from inspection and taxation of products, services, property, materials, equipment, vehicles, vessels, and aircraft introduced and/or imported into, acquired in or exported from Panama by or on behalf of the U S Government or its personnel, in connection with their mission in Panama, except that United States personnel shall not be exempt from Panamanian taxes on items purchased in Panama for their personal use

The two Governments shall cooperate in taking the necessary steps to ensure the security of United States personnel and property in Panama

Vehicles, vessels, and aircraft owned or operated by or for United States Armed Forces shall not be subject to payment of landing or port fees, pilotage charges,

navigation, overflight or parking charges or light or harbor dues while in Panama, except for the charges related to the normal transit of the Panama Canal, previously agreed to; however, United States Armed Forces shall pay reasonable charges for services requested and received

It shall be the responsibility of United States personnel to respect the laws of Panama and to abstain from any activity inconsistent with the spirit of their mission Authorities of the Government of the United States shall take the necessary steps to that end

Appropriate Panamanian and U S military or civilian police authorities shall cooperate in the investigation of any crime believed to have been committed by or against United States personnel

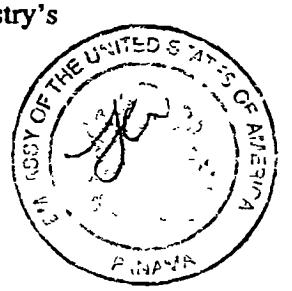
The Government of Panama shall accept full responsibility for, and shall hold the United States Government harmless from, any and all claims arising from the use of projects constructed, or in the process of being constructed in whole or in part, by United States personnel in connection with their mission in Panama

Finally, both governments shall waive any and all claims (other than contractual claims) against each other for personal injury to or death of their military or civilian personnel, or for damage, loss, or destruction of the other's property arising out of activities covered by this agreement The United States shall pay, in accordance with United States law, fair and reasonable compensation in settlement of meritorious claims by third parties arising out of acts or omissions of United States personnel, or which are

otherwise incident to agreed activities by United States personnel in connection with their mission in Panama

Additional arrangements as may be necessary may be entered into by the appropriate authorities of the two Governments

The Embassy of the United States of America proposes that this note and the Ministry's reply thereto shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments on this subject and that its provisions shall be in effect as of the date of the Ministry's reply



Embassy of the United States of America,

Panama, September 17, 2007

U S Department of State
Office of Language Services
Translating Division

LS No 10-2008-0183
Spanish/English
TGR

Translation

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
Panama City 4, Panama

No D/T 360

The Ministry of Foreign Relations presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of its note verbale No 1403 of September 17, 2007, which reads as follows

[The Spanish translation of Embassy note No 1403 dated September 17, 2007, agrees in all substantive respects with the original English text]

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Relations has the honor to inform the Embassy of the United States of America that the above proposal is acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Panama and that the Embassy's note and this note in reply shall constitute an agreement between our two governments, which shall enter into force on the date of this note

[Complimentary close]

Panama City, October 4, 2007

[Initialed]

[Ministry stamp]

Embassy of the United States of America,
Panama City

U S Department of State
Office of Language Services
Translating Division

LS No 10-2008-0183
Spanish/English
TGR

Translation

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
Panama City 4, Panama

No D/T 360

The Ministry of Foreign Relations presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of its note verbale No 1403 of September 17, 2007, which reads as follows

[See U S Note]

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Relations has the honor to inform the Embassy of the United States of America that the above proposal is acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Panama and that the Embassy's note and this note in reply shall constitute an agreement between our two governments, which shall enter into force on the date of this note

[Complimentary close]

Panama City, October 4, 2007

[Initialed]

[Ministry stamp]

Embassy of the United States of America,
Panama City